

The Boston Herald, November 19, 2002 Tuesday
Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.
The Boston Herald

November 19, 2002 Tuesday ALL EDITIONS

HEADLINE: Hub students get jump on real world experience

BYLINE: By Ed Hayward

BODY:

A couple of months after opening its doors, **TechBoston** Academy High School students linked up in a video conference yesterday with seven other schools designated as "model" incubators of the latest educational technology.

In a basement conference room in City Hall, six **TechBoston** students presented a research project as part of the Connecting Time program, a 10-week initiative sponsored by the Model Secondary Schools Project, which was funded by Microsoft tycoon Bill Gates.

The students presented research into 300 years of city history, as well as a program designed to spark greater involvement between downtown high technology firms and inner-city neighborhoods.

"If that happens, then kids can get a jumpstart on their careers," said Melchisedek Alce, of Mattapan, who helped design a Web site for the project. "They can learn now what they would have to learn later to be competitive. It would also keep kids out of trouble and give them a safe learning environment."

With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Boston Foundation, **TechBoston** Academy opened in September.

Boston Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant said the school is proving the marriage of technology and classroom education can work for urban schools.

"We're seeing technology as a set of tools for learning, but also seeing technology for its own sake and what it can do to enable these students to succeed in the world," said Payzant.